



CHILDREN & YOUTH RESOURCES

Help young people explore the connection between climate change and peace in age-appropriate, engaging ways. These activities help children and youth reflect on what peace really means—at home, in their communities, and in regions like the Lake Chad basin in Africa where climate change is a major source of conflict.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

TUG OF PEACE GAME

A fun and physical way to explore the difference between conflict and cooperation.

- **Supplies**
 - A long rope
 - Enough space for the group to sit in a circle
- **Instructions**
 - Start with a classic game of tug of war.
 - Then tie the rope into a large circle and have the children sit in a circle, each holding the rope with both hands.
 - The challenge: without touching the ground, the whole group must work together to stand up at the same time, using only the rope.
- **Discussion Questions**
 - How was this game different than tug of war?
 - How did it feel to work together instead of pulling against each other?
 - What do you think peace feels like?
 - Can you think of a time when working together solved a problem?

STORY TIME: *THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM*

Use the book *The Elephant in the Room* by Bishop Telmor Sartison (a video of him reading the book can be found at youtu.be/tEpygDCfpAE) to explore listening, empathy, and conflict.

- **Discussion Questions**

- Why are the animals so angry? Why is the elephant so sad?
- Have you ever felt angry or sad like the animals?
- What helped the animals find peace?
- What do you think causes people to argue or fight sometimes?
- How can listening and understanding each other help us feel peace?

CRAFT: PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Invite children to colour or decorate a prayer card for peace. Use the printable activity at clwr.org/prayer-for-the-world

- **Discussion Prompt**

- There are places in the world where people don't have enough water or food because of climate change. This makes life very hard and can lead to fighting. What would you like to pray for? Can we pray for peace in the Lake Chad region together?

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

TUG OF WAR & TUG OF PEACE

Start with a classic game of tug of war, then transform the game into a circle (Tug of Peace) to reflect on what peace looks like.

- **Instructions**

- Tie a long the rope into a circle and have everyone sit, holding the rope. The goal is to stand up together without using your hands for support—only the rope and teamwork.

- **Discussion Questions**

- How did it feel to win or lose in Tug of War?
- How was Tug of Peace different?
- What are examples in the world of people pulling against each other like in tug of war?
- What are examples of people working together like in tug of peace?
- In the Lake Chad region, people face conflict because of climate change. How do you think peace might be possible?

MOVIE REFLECTION: *ENCANTO* AND FAMILY PEACE

Watch select scenes from the movie *Encanto* that show the family's conflict and healing (e.g., Abuela and Mirabel's conversation near the end of the film).

- **Discussion Questions**

- What causes the conflict in the family?
- What helps them begin to heal?
- What role does listening and understanding play in finding peace?
- How might this story connect to real families or communities—like those in the Lake Chad region—who face challenges from climate change?

YOUTH-LED ACTION PROJECTS

Encourage youth to take leadership in your congregation by:

- Creating and performing a skit about their experience playing Tug of War vs. Tug of Peace, and what they learned about conflict, cooperation, and peacemaking
- Launching a Mindful Screen Time Challenge—power down earlier in the evening to reduce electricity use and reconnect with creation (invite others to join for outdoor quiet time or nature walks)
- Hosting a “Peace Garden” Day: Invite the congregation to help plant or care for a quiet outdoor space with flowers, herbs, or native plants—a place for peaceful reflection and connection with creation. Include a short youth-led reflection or prayer.
- Organize a “Peace in Action” Photo Challenge: Invite youth (and others!) to take and share photos that show what peace looks like in their lives and in creation—whether it’s a quiet forest, friends helping each other, or a moment of calm after a storm. Display the photos in church or on social media with short captions and scripture reflections.

• Reflection Questions

- What helps you feel peaceful—on your own, with others, or in nature?
- How can we be peacemakers in a world affected by climate change and conflict?
- What did you notice or learn about yourself while doing these activities?